



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS MONTH
August 2017

By the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS millions of Americans, estimated to be up to 50 million, participate in shooting sports, and many more are interested in learning about handgun, shotgun, and rifle shooting; and

WHEREAS the diverse range of the shooting sports community—from retailers and manufacturers to shooting ranges and their customers—are actively engaged in promoting the recreation value of target shooting; and

WHEREAS the shooting sports industry makes significant economic contributions, including the creation of an estimated 30,000 jobs within a recent 3-year period; and

WHEREAS shooters and gun owners contribute to a strong tax base for both the Federal Government and state governments, including paying the Pittman-Robertson excise tax on guns and ammunition that serves as a major source of funding for wildlife conservation; and

WHEREAS the Department of the Interior (Department) and its bureaus, as stewards of public lands and wildlife, have made and continue to make significant contributions to outdoor recreation—particularly hunting—and shooting sports; and

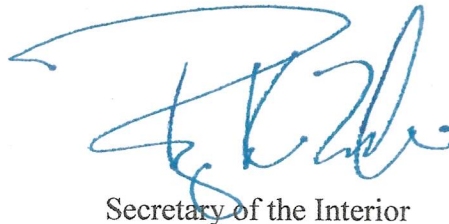
WHEREAS the month of August has been established as National Shooting Sports Month, a nationwide celebration of the shooting sports; and

WHEREAS this inaugural commemoration celebrates a passion for target shooting that can be shared with families and friends while at the same time reminding the public that shooting is a safe, fun activity enjoyed by millions of Americans that creates opportunities for retailers and ranges to grow their businesses; and

WHEREAS the Department and its bureaus—particularly the land management agencies of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management—provide ample and high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation with an emphasis on expanding American access to hunting, fishing, and shooting sports;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of shooting sports to the economy and the field of outdoor recreation, I, Ryan K. Zinke, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, do hereby proclaim August 2017, as National Shooting Sports Month at the Department of the Interior. I call upon the American public to join us and the shooting sports industries in recognizing the value and importance of these sports and the role the Department plays in providing valuable opportunities to hunt and shoot throughout the Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, in recognition of shooting sports, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of August 2017, the two hundred forty-second year of the Independence of the United States of America.



Secretary of the Interior